

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4874
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)
SUBJECT: SEC VISIT: CABINET DISCUSSION

1. THE CABINET COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE
FEBRUARY 13 FOLLOWING THE WEEKLY MEETING OF THE CABINET CONTAINED
THE FOLLOWING PARAS REGARDING THE VISIT TO ISRAEL BY SECRETARY
VANCE: BEGIN TEXT/ REFERRING TO THE VISIT TO JERUSALEM OF
THE NEW AMERICN SECRETARY OF STATE, CYRUS VANCE, THE FOREIGN
MINISTER STATED THAT ISRAEL WOULD WELCOME THE VISITOR WITH THE
AMICABILITY AND RESPECT HE MERITED. THE MEETINGS WOULD BE
DEVOTED PRINCIPALLY TO MUTUAL ACQUAINTANCE AND TO REPRESENTATION
OF ISRAEL'S POSITIONS ON THE CENTRAL POLITICAL ISSUES OF THE
AGENDA, WHICH ARE ANCHORED IN THE GOVERNMENT'S RESOLUTIONS.
ISRAEL ATTACHES PRIORITY TO AN OVERALL PEACE AGREEMENT AND TO
FULL NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS. AS A
SECOND PRIORITY, ISRAEL IS AGREEABLE--IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
UNITED STATES' PROPOSAL--TO EXAMINATION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF
CONDUCTING NEGOTIATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS ON ENDING THE
STATE OF WAR.

2. REFERRING TO THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE, THE FOREIGN MINISTER
EMPHASIZED THAT ISRAEL WOULD SUBMIT TO THE VISITOR ITS
PLAN FOR A CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTION OF THIS QUESTION IN THE
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CONTEXT OF PEACE WITH JORDAN--WHICH OCCUPIED TWO THIRDS
OF THE LAND OF ISRAEL. ISRAEL WOULD LOOK WITH FAVOR ON
THE PARTICIPATION OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE
WEST BANK IN JORDAN'S DELEGATION TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.
RECALLING THE PALESTINIAN COVENANT THAT CALLED FOR ISRAEL'S
LIQUIDATION, THE FOREIGN MINISTER REITERATED AND STRESSED
THAT THE PLO DOES NOT COME INTO ACCOUNT FOR THE PALESTINIANS'

REPRESENTATION.

3. THE FOREIGN MINISTER REMARKED THAT THE FACT THAT MR. VANCE HAD CHOSEN THE MIDDLE EAST AS THE FIRST REGION TO VISIT, AND IN PROXIMITY TO HIS ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE, TESTIFIED TO THE IMPORTANCE THE NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION ATTACHES TO PROMOTION OF PEACE IN THE REGION. THE FOREIGN MINISTER STRESSED THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE WOULD FIND ISRAEL READY FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT PRIOR CONDITIONS WITH EVERY ONE OF THE ARAB STATES ON THE BASIS OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338--WITH A SINCERE AIM OF ATTAINING DURABLE PEACE--ONCE THE REQUISITE PREPARATIONS FOR MAXIMAL ASSURANCE OF SUCCESS OF THE EFFORT ARE CONCLUDED.

4. DURING MR. VANCE'S VISIT, BILATERAL ISSUES BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES WOULD ALSO BE DISCUSSED.

5. AMBASSADOR SIMCHA DINITZ REPORTED ON HIS CONTACTS WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ON ALL PRACTICAL ISSUES OF COMMON INTEREST TO BOTH COUNTRIES.

6. FOLLOWING AN ELUCIDATORY EXCHANGE, THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED:

THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL WELCOMES THE VISIT TO ISRAEL OF MR. CYRUS VANCE, U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE. IN THEIR TALKS WITH HIM, THE GOVERNMENT'S REPRESENTATIVES WILL MAKE CLEAR ISRAEL'S POSITIONS ON THE PRINCIPAL ISSUES AS RESOLVED UPON IN THE CABINET, AND ITS
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SUGGESTIONS REGARDING THE WAYS WHEREBY PEACE IN THE REGION CAN BE PROMOTED. IN ADDITION, BILATERAL ISSUES WILL BE DISCUSSED WITH HIM. THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL HOPES FOR FRUITFUL TALKS THAT WILL CEMENT THE AMITY AND COOPERATION BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES.
END TEXT

7. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE COMMENT AND REPORTING IN LOCAL PRESS ON THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. FOR EXAMPLE, UNDER THE HEADLINE "VANCE WILL GIVE PRIORITY TO EXAMINING POSSIBILITY OF OVERALL SETTLEMENT IN STAGES," HAARETZ PUBLISHED A COMMENT BY MATTI GOLAN FEBRUARY 14 IN WHICH IT IS STATED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS CONCLUDED THAT CHANCES FOR AN IMMEDIATE OVERALL SETTLEMENT AND FOR ADDITIONAL INTERIM SETTLEMENTS ARE SLIGHT. "THEREFORE IT IS FELT IN WASHINGTON THAT THE MOST REALISTIC SOLUTION AT THE PRESENT TIME WOULD BE AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT IN STAGES, WITH THE VARIOUS STAGES BEING DETERMINED BEFOREHAND. EACH STAGE WILL BE MADE UP OF A CLEAR DEFINITION BOTH OF ISRAEL'S TERRITORIAL

WITHDRAWAL, AS WELL AS THE RETURNS AND GUARANTEES TO BE RECEIVED FOR SUCH WITHDRAWALS. THE FINAL OBJECTIVE WILL ALSO BE SET OUT, VIZ., FULL PEACE IN EXCHANGE FOR ALMOST TOTAL WITHDRAWAL ON ALL SECTORS. THE U.S.PROGRAM ALSO STIPULATES THAT NO NEW STAGE WILL COMMENCE UNTIL THE PREVIOUS STAGE HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED IN ITS ENTIRETY."

8. DAVAR IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "JERUSALEM PREPARING FOR VANCE VISIT" PREDICTS THAT ISRAELI LEADERS WILL RAISE QUESTIONS WHICH HAVE ARISEN LATELY BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE U.S., "...ALTHOUGH DISCUSSIONS WILL NO DOUBT CENTER MORE ON THE WIDE RANGE OF FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES WHOSE SOLUTION IS OF VITAL INTEREST BOTH TO ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES. MR. VANCE WILL DISCOVER THAT ISRAEL NOT ONLY DESIRES A SETTLEMENT WITH HER NEIGHBORS, BUT THAT SUCH A SETTLEMENT IS A CORNERSTONE OF HER POLICY, AND THE SURE ISRAEL CAN BE OF AMERICAN SUPPORT, AND THE GREATER HER DETERRENT POWER, THE UNCLASSIFIED

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GREATER HER CAPACITY TO ARRIVE AT SETTLEMENTS. THE PREVIOUS U.S. ADMINISTRATIONS SHOWED UNDERSTANDING FOR THIS BASIC STAND OF ISRAEL'S. THERE IS NO REASON WHY THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION SHOULD NOT PERSIST ALONG THESE LINES, AND IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT CYRUS VANCE'S VISIT WILL MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THIS."
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